

PRINTER RUSH
(PTO ASSISTANCE)

(1)

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<input type="checkbox"/> IIFW		<input type="checkbox"/> Fees
<input type="checkbox"/> SRFW		<input type="checkbox"/> Other
<input type="checkbox"/> DRW		
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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SPEC	<u>1-2-04</u>	

[RUSH] MESSAGE: ON page 6, lines 23 & 23
of the spec missing numbers.
PLEASE provide.

THANK YOU

[XRUSH] RESPONSE: OK

INITIALS: M

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the relative movement of the seat, backrest and ottoman of each reclining section 12, 16.

In the illustrated embodiment, each of the reclining sections rests on the underlying surface via a base 14a; however, those skilled in this art will recognize that reclining mechanisms of other configurations (including one-way, two-way, and three-way mechanisms, and wall proximity and non-wall-proximity reclining mechanisms) may also be suitable for use with the present invention. The reclining mechanisms 14 may be actuated in any manner known to be suitable for such actuation; examples include release cords and cables, push buttons, handles, and even simple application of force to the backrest of the reclining sections 12, 16.

Referring now to Figures 3-6, the reclining sections 12, 16 are interconnected with a connector 20. The connector 20 includes a male component 22 and a female component 30 that engage one another to interconnect the reclining sections 12, 16. Each of these components is discussed in greater detail below.

Referring still to Figures 3-6, the male component 22, which is typically formed of steel, includes as a base a thin base plate 24 (typically formed of steel) that is tapered at one end. At the non-tapered end, the base plate 24 is fixed to one of the reclining mechanisms 14 of the reclining section 12 (in this instance, to the base 14a via bolts inserted through apertures 24a) and extends laterally therefrom such that a portion of the base plate 24 is exposed from the footprint of the reclining section 12. Near the vertex of the tapered end of the base plate 24, an upwardly-extending post 26 is mounted to the base plate 24; typically the post 26 rises between about 0.25 and 1.0 inches above the upper surface of the base plate 24. In the illustrated embodiment two posts 28a, 28b are mounted on the base plate 24 between the reclining mechanism 14 and the post 26. The posts 28a, 28b serve as stops that limit the relative motion of the male and female components 22, 30; alternatively, the posts 28a, 28b may be replaced with a raised step that extends across some or all of the expanse of the base plate 24, or may be omitted entirely.

Referring again to Figures 3-6, the female component 30, which is also typically formed of steel, includes a generally Y-shaped base plate 32 that serves as its base. At one end, the base plate 32 is fixed to the base 14a of one of the reclining